United States Department of Agriculture



405.742.1240

May 27, 2003

OKLAHOMA BULLETIN NO. 130-3-4

Subject: AGN - Biosecurity Measures for Exotic Newcastle Disease (END)

<u>Purpose:</u> To remind employees of the need to be aware of Exotic Newcastle Disease in poultry.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2003

The latest biosecurity concern involving agriculture is Exotic Newcastle Disease (END). Outbreaks of END have been found in recent months in California and Nevada. In April 2003, END was confirmed in Texas.

Now that END is close to Oklahoma, it is imperative that NRCS employees be constantly vigilant in identifying END, and in our efforts to not spread, but help contain this disease, if it occurs in Oklahoma. Become aware of the symptoms and preventions of END by referring to the attachment. If END is suspected, clients are encouraged to contact the APHIS/Veterinary Services office at 405.427.9413. Additional information can be obtained from the APHIS website www.aphis.usda.gov.

As a final thought, although not "required" by policy, it would be a good idea to document, in planning and assistance notes, your discussions with producers and measures taken concerning END. Staff is also encouraged to make this subject at least a semiannual "safety item" discussion at staff meetings.

/s/

M. DARREL DOMINICK State Conservationist

Attachment

Dist: AO